



Radical Hospitality at Knoll Farm: modeling anti-oppression work

Our goal is for every guest at Knoll Farm to feel welcomed into a safe environment so they can share themselves, learn and to grow. The intention we practice toward helping our guests to arrive, to feel safe, to get rest, to be well cared for, and to return home safely is modeling the very best practices of multiculturalism. Through our hospitality, we create the conditions for change before we speak of it. “Prophetic Hospitality” are the words used by the new sanctuary movement to describe the critical role played by basic human kindness in creating broad-scale social change.

Our belief is that by practicing gracious hospitality we create the atmosphere and conditions for change to occur within every person and every group. Through our radical hospitality to every guest, we are modeling the change we wish to see in the world. Genuine warmth and hospitality to each guest reduces the inherent bias between insiders and outsiders. Radical hospitality is the way that we can model anti-oppression work.

What radical hospitality looks like at Knoll Farm:

- Putting each guest’s safety and comfort as the top priority.
- Settling guests in before dark, and recognizing that the dark has very different meanings to different people.
- Don’t assume every guest loves being on a farm or has been in a yurt before or is comfortable in nature. Consider that they may fear being on a farm, are worried about who we may be, and aren’t at all comfortable staying in a yurt on the side of a hill.
- Show human courtesy: turn on their lights when you show them their room, show someone the way to the farmhouse, ask if they have water, or if they slept well.
- Lighting welcome fires and solar lanterns to create warmth and safety.
- Asking every guest what they need to be comfortable here.
- Introducing ourselves to guests.
- Giving an orientation to the land that acknowledges the full history of this place, especially its Abenaki history.

- Honoring the elders of Knoll Farm: Ann Day, Bill Coperthwaite.
- Serving healthy food that respects people's dietary needs.
- Putting technology, phones, the outside world away as much as possible in order to be fully present to each other and this place.
- Sharing of our time and experiences with our guests and fellows.
- Looking out for their comfort when the weather is bad: windy, rainy, cold or especially hot. Closing yurt windows, lighting fires, providing extra clothing.
- Keeping buildings, pathways well-lit at night so that our guests feel safe and know where they are going.
- Actively discouraging alcohol and drug use by our guests because there is always someone in the group who is in recovery.

